

REMARKS

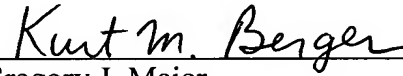
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 6, 7, 11, and 16 have been amended by the present preliminary amendment for the purpose of clarification only. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Accordingly, an examination of Claims 1-20 is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

GJM/KMB/la

I:\ATTY\KMB\243499US\243499US.PRELIM.DOC